

Dear Commission:

I am writing to express my views regarding Broadcast Ownership--
docket #02-277.

I oppose any further changes that will allow media corporations or others from owning multiple media outlets in one city or in the case close to home ---the rules should not allow the owner of newspapers to own tv stations and radio stations.

It is hard enough to find good news reporting as it is but if ya'll allow these changes it will not be to the benefit of the general public-it will be to our detriment.

Whoever concocted this idea must be already making a fortune and only wants to make more money. The concept being put forth will dramatically negatively affect our country's independent thinking when it comes to news reporting. (*But if you're looking for profits then these changes are for you.)

Today, the only way of getting balanced news is to channel surf the news programs on TV and on the radio and to buy several newspapers--plus scan the internet. If you pass the changes put before you it won't matter what station or channel or paper--it will all be the same stuff just dressed differently!

When our country gets to only having one or two conglomerates controlling the media then we (the people) will not be better off. The news will be scripted, sliced and diced to fit the "market" and won't be independently worked up by independent media outlets. News will go from colorful to tasteless mundane network feed.

Our country is based on many freedoms which we all take for granted most of the time-- but one freedom we cannot do away with is the freedom of the press--which I'll extend to the 'media' outlets being discussed. If your new rules are accepted then we (the citizens) will not have had our right to 'freedom of the press' protected. You will have diminished competition and our right to open reporting of the news. Ya'll know as well as I do that there will be fewer and fewer 'publishers' giving direction as to the content of the news (sounds dangerous)---this will only further exasperate the dumbing down of America.

In addition to the above, the proposed changes will create a noncompetitive environment as it deals with advertising rates. Where will the competition be? Who controls the rates? Sounds like antitrust laws being violated at some point in the future. We have all seen the many examples where greed has corrupted many a person in corporate America and lead them off to jail. If these changes come about I can guarantee you there will be price fixing, kickbacks, slush funds, you name it and you will have allowed it to happen!

Nothing good will come about for the general population if these changes are put into play. I suggest further limitations on ownership and greater amounts of competition to ensure true 'freedom of the press'.

I appreciate this opportunity to express my views.

Please proceed and do what is right for the citizens of this great country.